



IOWA DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

**September 18, 2008
For immediate release**

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NEW SERVICE OPPORTUNITY TO REBUILD IOWA GREEN

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DES MOINES- Iowa Green Corps, in conjunction with AmeriCorps and the DNR, is looking for six people who want to lead Iowa's rebuilding green efforts for the next twelve months.

Green Iowa AmeriCorps Program kicked off this week with the Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service approving AmeriCorps funding and the Iowa Power Fund granting matching dollars. Their contributions will provide 56 AmeriCorps positions for members to help rebuild communities hit by disaster in a sustainable, green way.

Their mission will be to assess energy saving needs in communities and provide energy-saving education and service through community outreach.

One Iowa Green Corps team will be located in Linn and Johnson counties. The other team will serve in Black Hawk, Bremer and Butler counties. These regions were targeted first, because of the still evident impacts of the 2008 disasters.

A team will consist of three 12-month positions, nine six-month positions and 16 three-month positions. Overall the Iowa Green Corps will have a total of 56 members.

For more information and an application form, visit Iowa Green Corps at www.iowadnr.com/volunteer/americorps/index.html

AmeriCorps started in 1994 to meet critical needs in U.S. education, environment, public safety and other issues. Since 1994, more than 500,000 members have served in AmeriCorps positions nationwide.

Written by Tyler Keoppel

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PLAN NOW FOR MANURE APPLICATION AFTER HARVEST

MEDIA CONTACT: Jeff Prier at (712) 262-4177 or jeff.prier@dnr.iowa.gov

DES MOINES – Before harvest reaches its peak is a good time for manure applicators to plan for land application after harvest.

“First things first. Commercial and private applicators should check to make sure their certification is current,” said Jeff Prier who coordinates the DNR’s applicator certification program.

If not, applicators can contact their nearest Extension office to make an appointment to complete their training. Or, they can contact any of the six DNR field offices that offer testing for certification.

“Equally important, applicators should take this lull before harvest is completed to review their emergency action plans,” said Angela Rieck-Hinz, ISU Extension agronomist and educator. “It’s a good time to check over the plans, make sure all the emergency contacts are still correct and to remind employees on the proper responses to an accident or spill.”

It’s a good time to check and calibrate equipment to make sure it is in good working order. Proper maintenance can help prevent spills, leaks and complaints.

Prier and Rieck-Hinz recommended manure applicators review maps and manure or nutrient management plans prior to land application. Applicators should also look at the required separation distances from environmentally sensitive areas prior to going into the field. Prier said commercial applicators should also keep a copy of the producer’s application instructions in their files.

It’s also important to consider weather conditions and field conditions. Prier said avoiding a manure release into a stream or a fish kill may be as simple as delaying

application until the ground dries out a little or making sure there is no heavy rain in the forecast.

Finally, if there is a spill or manure release, applicators must call the DNR 24-hour spill line within six hours of the spill or its discovery. The number is (515) 281-8694.

A DNR specialist will respond to the spill. In many cases, they can provide advice on how to keep manure contained and prevent or reduce water quality problems.

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LAKE ICARIA RECOGNIZED FOR RESTORATION EFFORTS

MEDIA CONTACT: Steve Hopkins at (515) 281-6402 or
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ADAMS COUNTY – Ten years after being placed on Iowa’s 2008 Section 303(d) list of impaired waters, Lake Icaria’s water quality has improved so much that the DNR recommends the lake be removed from the list.

The DNR placed the Adams County lake on Iowa’s impaired waters list in 1998 after sediment loads began severely affecting water quality and aquatic life.

“The lake and watershed had been taken for granted, which had resulted in poor water quality conditions with poor fishing,” said former Lake Icaria Watershed Project Coordinator Bob Waters.

Between 1996 and 2005, the watershed project – funded by state and federal agencies – worked with local landowners to reduce soil erosion by installing grade stabilization structures, terraces and filter strips. Most significant was the construction of a wetland along Lake Icaria’s largest tributary as the last line of defense for trapping sediment and nutrients.

Inlake efforts to improve water quality included stabilizing more than 10,000 feet of eroded shoreline and removing carp from the lake.

Adding to this accomplishment, Lake Icaria is now the third lake in Iowa to have a success story featured on the Environmental Protection Agency’s (EPA) Section 319 Nonpoint Source Success Stories website.

“This is a big deal, since Iowa now has three of only 68 success stories nationwide approved by the EPA,” said Steve Hopkins, DNR nonpoint source program coordinator. The other two Iowa success stories occurred in Nine Eagles Lake and Slip Bluff Lake.

“It is very exciting to see these repeated successes,” said Richard Leopold, director of the DNR. “It demonstrates what can be accomplished when federal, state and local groups

focus on a goal. These investments will benefit local communities and the state for generations.”

The EPA Section 319 Nonpoint Source Success Stories website features stories highlighting impaired water bodies where restoration efforts have resulted in significant water quality improvements.

“I can’t tell you how rewarding it is to go to Lake Icaria now and see people enjoying it in so many ways, and to reminisce about all of the great people that helped make it happen,” said Waters.

Iowa’s Publicly Owned Lakes Fund, Iowa’s Water Protection and Watershed Protection Funds and the Clean Water Act section 319 Fund, among others, contributed to the project’s overall success.

To read about Lake Icaria’s restoration, as well as other Section 319 Nonpoint Source Success stories, visit <http://www.epa.gov/owow/nps/Success319/>.

Writer: Elise Taylor

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SAMPLE MANURE FIELDS THIS FALL IF USING MANURE AS FERTILIZER

MEDIA CONTACT: Ken Hessenius or Cindy Martens at (712) 262-4177, or Jeremy Klatt at (641) 424-4073.

DES MOINES – Whether you are a livestock or crop producer, if your fields will be receiving manure, especially from a confinement operation, you may need to sample soils this fall.

There are three major groups that need to sample soils when the manure source is a confinement required to have a manure management plan.

First, the producers who initially submitted their manure management plans prior to April 1, 2002, will need to use the phosphorus or P index for the first time in their annual plan updates. The DNR estimates about 1,500 to 2,000 livestock and poultry producers will need to update plans in the coming year, September 2008 through August 2009. The P index is used in a manure management plan to help determine appropriate levels of phosphorus application based on erosion, nearness of streams and other factors.

The second group of livestock producers have existing manure management plans that have already incorporated the P index. They need to resample soils if the soil samples are four years old.

A third group are the crop producers receiving manure from a livestock producer who is required to have a manure management plan. In this case, the crop producer will need to use the P index and soil loss equation to determine proper land application rates. Check with your livestock producer or the DNR to see what is required.

The P index uses soil phosphorus concentration, erosion rates and other factors to determine the risk of phosphorus from a field entering surface waters. Therefore, fields with very high soil P concentrations and high erosion rates are more likely to be affected.

Producers who have questions about whether or not they need to sample, should contact their local DNR field office or check the DNR Web site at www.iowadnr.gov under animal feeding operations.

There are six DNR field offices located in the following parts of the state:

- Northeast Iowa, Manchester, (563) 927-2640.
- North Central Iowa, Mason City, (641) 424-4073.
- Northwest Iowa, Spencer, (712) 262-4177.
- Southwest Iowa, Atlantic, (712) 243-1934.
- South Central Iowa, Des Moines, (515) 725-0268.
- Southeast Iowa, Washington, (319) 653-2135.

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GAS PRICE GOUGING: WHERE TO GO FOR HELP

MEDIA CONTACT: Jane Mild, (515) 242-6004 or Jane.Mild@dnr.iowa.gov

Nationwide, gas prices have risen nearly 17 cents per gallon since Friday, according to auto club AAA, the Oil Price Information Service and Wright Express. Although far from Hurricane Ike, Iowans noticed an increase in gas prices, too.

Initial reports of gas price gouging in the Florida and Texas area began even before Hurricane Ike made landfall. Then gas prices climbed as Ike hit the refinery-rich area of Texas' Gulf Coast. However, it appears that most of the energy infrastructure was relatively unharmed.

Despite that, the number of gas price gouging reports skyrocketed in southern states according to AAA. Although Iowans may not have been directly impacted by the storm, they can take their concerns about the price at the pump to the United States Department of Energy. They can submit an online complaint, at <http://gaswatch.energy.gov/> or call 1-800-244-3301. Also they can contact the Iowa Attorney General at 515-281-5926 or visit www.state.ia.us/government/ag/consumer/advisories/price_gouging.html

Jennifer Wright at the Iowa Office of Energy Independence encourages Iowans to voice their concerns by reporting companies trying to profit from the crisis. She echoes Energy

Secretary Samuel Bodman in identifying consumers as “...our first line of defense against gas price gouging.”

For further information on gas price gouging, visit: www.energy.gov

Written by Tyler Keoppel